MEXICO

THE ORGAN OF THE METHODIST CHURCH OF MEXICO

Vol. 41 January — June 1951 No. 1

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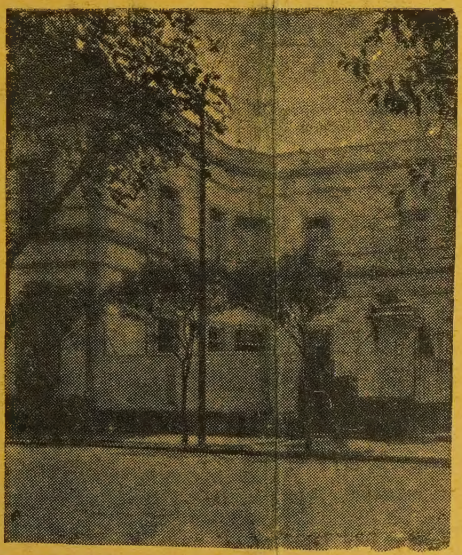

Hostel of Methodist Deaconess School
Mexico, D. F.

MEXICO

THE ORGAN OF THE METHODIST CHURCH OF MEXICO

PUBLISHED QUARTELY

Ruth V. Warner, Editor

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APARTADO 115 BIS, MEXICO, D. F., MEXICO

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Mary N. Pearson
Deaconess of the Methodist Episcopal Church
Social Worker

Principal of the Methodist Deaconess School
Mexico, D. F.

For this special number MEXICO is indebted to Miss Pearson's initiative and diligence in gathering material, translating it, and providing pictures — all but this one!

Deaconess School Entertains in Garden

The Methodist Deaconess

Mary N. Pearson

As the early church recognized the value of the work of women, such as Phebe, in the church, so even today in newly organized churches there is seen the same need. The early missionaries of the W. F. M. S. of the Methodist Episcopal Church who were sent to Mexico soon realized this as a necessity for the growth of the newly founded church.

Miss Effie Dunmore, a missionary connected with the Juarez School in Guanajuato, sensed this and began Bible classes to prepare girls and young women for work in and for the church. Later a regular course was planned and by the year 1915 there were a few ready to begin work. Among this group was Elisa Ortega, who later married one of the national pastors and has given splendid service as a pastor's wife and parsonage mother. Today, one of her daughters is starting full time work as a deaconess after graduating from our school. Later the deaconess group was transferred to Mexico City and a small school established. Miss Dunmore's health failed and she had to be relieved; so Miss Helen Greace Murray was sent down in 1918. She reorganized, the school, putting it on the

same basis as other schools of this type in the States. A small piece of property with a colonial style house, back of the Sara Keen School, was purchased and a dormitory built, so that by 1925 the present quarters were ready for occupancy. Up to that time, the girls had been housed in rented quarters.

The school has been known by different names, according to the political situation of the country. At first it was called Bible School, then later changed to School of Social Sciences, then back to Bible School and now it is know as the Methodist Deaconess School, a unión project of the two Conferences here in Mexico.

After Miss Murray left, Miss Ruth Warner took over and directed the work for a number of years and then Miss Maria Louisa Chagoyán was made principal, with Miss Warner as her assistant, carrying on the work until 1943 .

In the northern part of the country the Methodist Church South began missionary work about the same time as the Methodist Episcopal Church in the south. The training of women workers came a bit later there, however. For that body it was a Centenary project. Under the able direction of one of their missionaries, Miss Norwood. E. Wynn, a number of girls were interested in becoming student volunteers.

A Bible department was opened in Roberts College for the express purpose of training young women in church work. At first a three year course was featured, then it was increased to four, and later made a five year course. From the work of this department have come many strong leaders.

The merger of the Southern Methodist Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church came about sooner in Mexico than in the States because of certain laws that hindered the growth of the work. When the merger came in the States we were already accustomed to work together. In 1943 the two Bible Schools were united and by decree of the General Conference of the Mexican Methodist Church, Mexico City became its home and the name chosen was Methodist Deaconess School.

Today, the establishment serves as a home for the student body, as it is no longer possible to carry on studies of a religious nature in a private home. The girls take the same studies as the boys in El Centro Evangelico Unido (The United Evangelical Center) which in other words means the Seminary. Several courses are offered, but, up to date, our girls have either taken the three year Bible course or the four year theological course. It has proved a very satisfactory arrangement. Not only theory, but practical methods of work are studied. Definite practice work in some church in children's and young people's groups is part of the regular program. Daily Vacation Bible School plans and projects are also studied and experimented with during the long vacation period in some well organized D. V. B. S., or a new venture, in some locality where such a project has never been tried, is carried out.

From the portals of the home and school have gone forth many young women to work in the Master's vineyard, some as regular deaconesses, some as volunteer workers and others as wives of pastors or of church members, establishing Christian homes and making their influence felt in the community.

The school is one of "the least of these" in question of numbers, but it has brought forth good fruit. We pray that the Master may guide us all in plans for the future.

A YEAR AFTER

A young man who had been saved from a dissipated life, gave this testimony: "When I looked into the glass the other day to comb my hair, I thought: you look very different than you did a year ago. Then you looked sad and as though you wanted someone to be sorry for you." Two more years have now passed, and his face reveals still more of the joy of the Lord.

Notes on my Work

Catalina Chavira

I have been in the work nineteen years. Two were spent as a pastor's assistant; eight as pastor in different small churches in Ciudad Juarez, Parral, Circuit of Ciudad Delicias, Camargo, and Boquilla in the State of Chihuahua. During one year of furlough, with a companion I visited and studied the work in Mexican churches in the States. For six years I worked as general secretary of the Federation of Women's Missionary Societies of the Frontier Conference, and recently I have been in charge of the Roberts Social Center in Saltillo.

Miss Chavira Visits Tarahumaras

In all the different phases of the work I have had wonderful experiences, for which I thank my Savior. When I took charge of the circuit of Camargo, Boquilla and Delicias, God helped me to open up Methodist work in Ciudad Delicias, and to begin the construction of a church there, and later to erect a small church in Boquilla.

Group from Day Nursey, Saltillo

My greatest joy has been in rural work, to which I have dedicated not only my working days but also my vacations. There is a region in the south of the state of Chihuahua which I have been visiting for 27 years. In this region there are nine different localities where there are small groups of believers. In order to reach some of these I have had to go on horseback for seven hours, a mere labor of love, for the fruit of these visits was 35 members received into the fold and many children baptized.

Besides using me to win souls for His kingdom, God has given me the privilege of interesting some young men and women to surrender themselves to the Master for work in His Kingdom. At present among this group there are two ministers and a lay worker already in the work, while a young woman is now ready to enter rural work.

My earnest desire each day is to better serve my Master in His vineyard.

As unto the Lord

Soledad Silva

Upon finishing my studies in Colegio Roberts in Saltillo, I was made pastor of a little country church in Bocoyna, among the Tarahumara Indians. In their languaje Bocoyna means "moving pine", for they have seen how the Conchos River at flood level uproots the pines which abound in that region and carries them down stream.

God blessed me greatly there, and precious souls were won. The congregation was made up partly of mestizos and partly of Tarahumaras. There were four preaching places on the circuit, and I went everywhere on foot, accompanied by an Indian girl. Sometimes we climbed high mountains to descend again into deep valleys amid the pine woods. Sometimes my feet bled, my heart was ofren burdened, but the Word says, "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

There followed in succession three other pastoral charges: Ciudad Camargo, San Isidro, and Villa Cuauhtémoc, all in the state of Chihuahua. Each had its own circuit which I visited systematically on foot, or riding horse, burro, train, or car. The people always eagerly awaited my visits, no matter what the hour nor the inclemency of the weather.

In Villa Cuauhtemoc the Lord gave me a pleasant surprise. There I found a family who had been converted by means of a New Testament which I gave to a poor woman when I was in Bocoyna. She had been abandoned on the road, was hungry, and carried a sick child. When she came to my door, I took her in and for a week shared my food and shelter with her. She attended the services and the Christmas program. I talked to her about the Gospel, gave her money for her ticket, and provided her with a lunch so that she could return home.

As she left I gave her a New Testament, although she did not know how to read, and said to her: "If someone in your family knows how to read, have them read it to you". The Word of the Lord, according to His promise, did not return unto Him void. If she was not the one converted, at least her sister and brother-in-law were reached for the Gospel by reading this New Testament, and they were the very ones who had abandoned her on the road. I hope someday when I am with my Lord I may have other similar surprises.

After eight years of pastoral work I entered social work, having been an assistant in the centers in Durango and Saltillo. Since 1944 I have been in charge of the MacDonell Social Center in Durango. In this social work I have always cooperated closely with the pastor in the evangelistic phase of the church.

The day nursery is one of our forms of service which lies close to my heart because of the aid we are able to give to mothers who work and have no place to leave their children. We see the little ones develop physically and spiritually. Those who are with us on Sundays we take to church. We teach them to give thanks at the table, and we have programs for special days.

Our clinic renders excellent medical service. Before the patients leave, we distribute Evangelical literature, but that does not keep them from returning.

Our playgrounds are always in use. Our assembly hall is used, also, by the church and by the school, our sister institution. We have hours of reading and games for the youth of the League. The classes we offer include English, typing and shorthand, reading, writing, arithmetic, sewing, cooking, and artificial flowers.

What we are able to do we do heartily, as unto the Lord, for we serve the Lord Christ.

—o O o—

"Prayer is a small word for a big thing."

★

Mrs. Reyes Traveling by Burromobile

★

Living, Loving, and Serving

Asunción A. de Reyes

I am one of a half dozen deaconesses who work in the northern part of Mexico at present.

As soon as I became a Christian, and that was in my teen years, I began doing my part in church work. There was no activity in which I would not cooperate and I did it with a happy heart and diligent hands. But it was not until eighteen years ago that I began to work as a deaconess in full connection with the Methodist Church of Mexico. Before that I was employed at the Sociel Center in Monterrey.

The first part of Ecclesiastes 9:10 expresses my nature: "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." Thus, I have taught English and Domestic Science, and I

have done translation work. As a social worker I have conducted Mothers' Clubs with very satisfactory results. For two years I had an appointment as pastor of a small rural church. There I did all I could in wealfare work among women and children; I organized the Women's Missionary Society and taught the women to sew, cook, knit, and crochet, as well as to read and write. With the children I organized a Vacation Bible School which proved very successful, and many children had the opportunity to learn about salvation through faith in our Lord Jesus. I also took time to visit the homes and was always welcomed.

For three years I served as General Secretary of the Women's Missionary Societies. During that time I traveled through all the northern states of this country, riding trains, buses, small carriages, or burros, and in some places going on foot because there were no other means of transportation. I cooperated with the preachers the best I could and, of course, put special emphasis on my work with women and children.

Most of my time has been given to teaching at the Social Center, and, as I am the widow of a Methodist preacher, I have a family to care for. That I call my side line. By this time all my children are grown up and some of them have homes of their own. Three of them are teachers, two are lawyers, two are stenographers in English and Spanish, and one is a good factory worker and very capable in her line.

In church I have taught a Sunday School class and have taken special interest in women's work. In every day life I help all I meet, taking the sick to the doctor, finding jobs for those unemployed, and visiting in the homes.

What I have done anybody else could have done, too; the only thing to be mentioned would be the fact that I have surrendered myself for Christian service.

—o O o—

"I had rather have you become a missionary for Christ than to shrivel up into a king." — Spurgeon.

"I'll be what you want me to be"

Carmen Dávila L.

As a child, one beautiful Christmas season, I first became acquainted with the Gospel in Gante St. Church, Mexico City. Our family continued to attend the services, and my mother was converted, becoming a simple, fervent Christian. By the time I had grown up into the Intermediate League some of us were taught how to work with tiny children in Sunday School. This awoke in me the desire to serve God, and to my love for children's work I owe part of my call to Christian service.

During a week of special meetings for Intermediates, an invitation was made to dedicate ourselves to the service of God. Under the wise guidance of the pastor, Rev. Vicente Mendoza, a group of us responded, consecrating ourselves to work for God. I had no idea what that step would mean in my life, but my heart had been touched by the Spirit, and the course of my life was changed. It cost me a struggle, for I was preparing for a different career, and my family opposed my new plans. So the pastor, to determine whether I had real convictions or only passing emotion, sent me off to make all my own arrangements alone.

Entering the Bible School, I spent the years from 1928 to 1931 in preparation for deaconess work. Of all my varied experiences as a student I shall relate only one, but this was the most glorious of my life — receiving the assurance of my personal salvation. Although I was a believer and was even studying the Bible, I did not have this confidence, but at last, as we were taught and guided, my convictions became firm and I knew by personal experience that I was saved. But when we were taught from the Bible about holiness and purity through the Holy Spirit, I did not accept it, for it seemed impossible that human beings could reach such a degree of communion with God. With my intellectual knowledge and the presence

of Christ Jesus as my Savior I felt content. So there the matter rested.

In 1932 I began my work as a deaconess in Gante St. church under the direction of Rev. Epigmenio Velasco, faithful and devoted servant of God that he was. In my six years there, helping in all the departments and organizations, I became established and left that church with courage to face the problems of other fields.

For two years I had a pastorate in the city of Queretaro, at that time a place that had been without a pastor for ten years. By the help and mercy of God we were able to gather a group of nearly a hundred attendants, and make visits to nearby rural points.

Next I was called to be General Secretary of the Federation of Women's Missionary Societies, with responsibility for the office work, publication of material, celebration of institutes, and itinerating in eight states of the Republic. I had a thousand and one adventures, and a thousand and one blessings. At last I began to understand Matthew 9:35-38 and my consecration hymn, "I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go, Dear Lord."

After a year of rest I was sent to a remote, circuit in the State of Veracruz, Orizaba and Peñuela. The former was a place where vice abounded, und the few believers were hungry for the Word. In Peñuela, fertile land of perfumes and fruits, the believers had a simple, fervent faith, and we won new souls to Christ on evangelistic trips to nearby places.

In 1947 I returned to the Federation work, not having been able to complete the fourth year of the term because of illness. Yet had it not been for the experiences of bereavemént and illness in which Christ has manifsted His love, I should not know how to comfort and share in the griefs of my brethren and sisters in Christ. Not for a moment have I repented of having dedicated my life to God.

I could not finish this narrative without returning to what I said about holiness of life. After I left school the matter stuck in my mind like a thorn, and I asked for opinions

Unfinished Church of Galeana

of others and read books about it. I understood it all with my head but thought I did not need it in my spirit, since I had not been rescued from obscene sin. How wrong I was, and how greatly did I need it! The Holy Spirit worked in my heart and gave me a great opportunity. Miss D. Willia Caffray came to Mexico and held services in Gante St. church and, later, for the pastors and Metodist workers. It was then that the Holy Spirit purified and sanctified my spirit. That same month of January 1934 I was consecrated as a deaconess of the Methodist Church of Mexico by Bishop Juan N. Pascoe, and Miss Caffray preached the sermon, thus rounding out this glorious epoch.

Since them I have been a different person. My life of service has been directed to winning souls to Christ and to helping them receive the blessing I have experienced. Without this work of the Spirit in me I could not have gone on. I might have failed or fainted by the way. But day by day I pray for God to take me forward, cleansing me and forgiving my mistakes. I have found inspiration in many lives and pray that God may make mine a blessing to someone.

For all the experiences of these twenty-two years, both the wounds and the joys, I praise God. My life rests anew at His feet, and joyously I accept His marching orders and His will.

Ana Rodríguez
and Women's Group

Xoxocotla Circuit

Ana Rodríguez

Xoxocotla, a mission field supported by the Federation of Women's Missionary Societies, has been assigned to me for evangelization and cultivation. It is some distance from Mexico City but easily accessible from the nearby Acapulco highway.

Like many places in Mexico, Xoxocotla is a primitive community, where the Mexican dialect is spoken although the majority of the people understand and speak Spanish. They construct their own houses which give the impression of its being a rural village, with its unpaved streets whose earth has been packed down by past generations. By this I do not mean that it is an uncivilized region. It belongs to the State of Morelos, a rich producer of sugar cane.

The people themselves are eager to learn and receptive to suggestions. The work of the church is the very life of its members. All day both men and women work in the field, and in the evening they find rest, physically and spiritually, by attending the week-day services held in our church. I direct

Xoxocotla Swinging Bridge

these meetings, but on special occasions the people prefer to listen to the message in the Mexican dialect; so any one of them serves as interpreter, and they also sing the hymns in the dialect. It has been a joy to guide them, and I have learned to do it in the commanding manner to which they are accustomed, but without wounding them. They understand perfectly.

The non-Evangelical community still continues the tradition of fiestas, such as Carnival, Passion Week, and Christmas, celebrations which are a hindrance to their normal development and spiritual progress. But our members are not affected by these customs.

At present some 50 people attend the church besides the children. On Sunday mornings there is Sunday School for the children, and in the afternoon for the adults. Then at night we have the regular service. It has been satisfying to observe how the group are growing in spiritual life, Christian service, and fellowship. With the help of God and through the efforts of all the members, the church building has been reconditioned, for they truly love it and never want to leave a service until obliged to do so by the leader's saying. "Good Night".

Galeana, another point on the circuit, is four or five miles away, a little more civilized than Xoxocotla and more enthusiastic in their church work. In spite of the distance, the brethren of Galeana visit those in Xoxocotla, and vice versa, whenever there is a special speaker or program. Often the return trip must be made on foot because of its being too late at night for bus service. However, these inconveniences do not cause me to desist from my convictions and the desire to help my brethren. They are just the experiences in the work which any of the Lord's laborers would have.

My greatest joy has been to see the new church building in Galeana almost completed. It has been built by the initiative, the enthusiasm, and liberality of the members of that place who have given part or all of their time to bring about what they had so long desired — the construction of a House of Prayer. Their faith has grown as they have felt the hand of God with them in moments of crisis, either economic or spiritual. They all pray, from the children who are just learning to talk, up to the old folks — something not always seen in other churches.

Besides the activities in these two churches, I visit the Women's Societies in Higuerón and Jojutla. Travel is inconvenient, and the winding roads make one dizzy, but it is inspiring to visit these groups, for they are begging for someone to direct them and teach them the way. They are hungry for God.

By invitation I have visited the villages of Santa Cruz and Nezpa, but the distance is so great and the road so bad — seven hours by horseback — that the places are largely abandoned.

Faithful to God's calling, I try to do my best in the great work He has given us of winning Mexico for Christ.

—o O o—

"It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself."

DEDICATION

To our devoted deaconesses of the Methodist Church of Mexico we dedicate this number of MEXICO.

Their record, given in their own words, speaks for itself. May God multiply blessing to each one and grant them rich fruitage from their faithful service.

"They climbed the steep ascent of heaven

Through peril, toil, and pain:

O God, to us may grace be given

To follow in their train".

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Marina Solis Estrada
Central Conference
Rural Missionary, Pastorates,
Federation of Women's Missionary Societies

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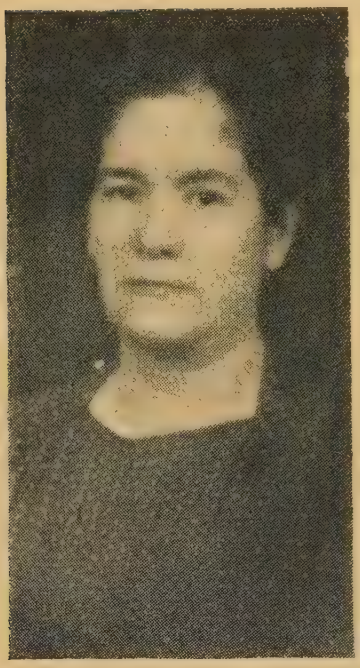

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Asunción A. de Reyes
Border Conference
Federation of Women's Missionary Societies, Social Center

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María Mireles
Border Conference
Social Center

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Carmen Dávila
Central Conference
Pastorates, Federation of
Women's
Missionary Societies

Soledad Silva
Border Conference
Pastorates, Social Centers

Maclovia Garza Flores
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of Women's Missionary Societies

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Religious Education, Federation of Women's Missionary Societies, Pastorates

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Amparo de León
Associate Deaconess
Border Conference
Social Centers

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MEXICO regrets not having received the pictures of two workers of the Border Conference: Mrs. María Q. Frausto, Deaconess, and Miss María Carrillo, Associate Deaconess.

Miss Solis and class, Zacapoaxtla

In the Master's Vineyard

Marina Solís Estrada

My work as a deaconess has been done chiefly in rural sections where I have had charge of congregations in which the Lord has richly blessed me.

My first venture was in the town of Ozumba where I began my work in a church that was in material and spiritual decline. First it was necessary to repair the parsonage and the little church. I had to visit five villages of the circuit regularly on foot, holding services in the homes and doing personal work.

After several years at Ozumba, the Federation of Women's Missionary Societies named me as their missionary in Zima-

pan, Hidalgo, where I labored three years, fighting against, the fanaticism and indifference of the people, and suffering a thousand hardships. I began the work by visiting in the homes and doing personal work in the neighboring villages. Soon I had a small group of children that I formed into a Sunday School, and on Sunday afternoons I had services in the homes. At last, with God's help, I was able to arrange for the purchase of a house which was repaired and adapted to the use of the church and, before I left that field, it had been equipped with the necessary furniture. The congregation at that time numbered 80 people, the majority being soldiers who had been converted along with their families.

I shall never forget the winsome group of children that made up the first Daily Vacation Bible School before we had a church building in which to worship. One of the men of the congregation offered us a room in his house where the boys and girls of the public school met and were won for our Vacation School and afterwards for Christ. One little girl invited her friends, and they in turn invited theirs; so finally we had a good Vacation School and a fine Sunday School. Now these boys and girls are young men and women who remember, with gratitude to God, the happy days when they came to know Christ as their Savior.

One of the women in Zimapan who was converted, the wife of a soldier, became an active and consecrated volunteer missionary. Although she could neither read nor write, she did excellent personal work among her neighbors, getting them to memorize Bible verses she herself had learned. This detachment of soldiers was ordered to leave Zimapan to serve elsewhere, but they carried the seed of the Gospel to others who did not know Christ, thus fulfilling the blessed words. "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

Later I was named, in company with another deaconess, to the work of the church in Jojutla, Morelos. The tempera-

ture there is hot and one works under difficulties but, thank God, we had many precious experiences as we became the instruments in the hands of God for giving the Water of Life to thirsting souls. We had to walk several miles to reach the six different villages of the circuit where we carried on prayer meetings and other services.

After this experience I was delegated to work in Zacapoaxtla, in the mountains of the State of Puebla. There was no church building; so we had services in a rented room. The entire congregation consisted of Indians who descended the mountains to come to hear the Good News of Salvation.

In order to visit the homes of Zacapoaxtla and do evangelistic work in five different villages that were each more or less four miles distant from each other, we had to climb hills and travel on foot along narrow, muddy paths. Starting the trek at break of day in order to find the people before they went out to work, often we could go forward only with the assistance of the strong arms of the natives to keep us from falling into the stagnant water in the road, a common thing in those regions where it rains constantly.

At last a numerous and enthusiastic congregation of men, women, and children was formed, all of whom enjoyed learning Bible stories. After a time the opposition of fanatics obliged us to leave the place, but the work went on.

At two different periods I have worked as pastor in Ozumba and Amecameca, both in the State of Mexico. Recently as General Secretary of the Federation of Women's Missionary Societies of the Central Conference I have been visiting, giving talks and help to the Women's Societies scattered in eight states of our Republic.

In the 19 years that I have worked in the Vineyard of the Master, I have had many experiences, some sad and bitter, but withal there has been inward joy in serving Christ in whose work I have spent the greater part of my life. Glory be to His Name!

The Privilege of Serving

Celia O. Rodríguez

After finishing my studies in the Bible School, I worked part of the year 1934 in the Balderas Street church, following which I was called to the Bible School to work as an assistant, staying there five years. Then I worked with the Salvation Army for four years.

My work as a deaconess began in 1944. I was sent to Magdalena Tlaltelulco in the State of Tlaxcala. Although the congregation was not happy in having a woman as pastor, I stayed two years and had the privilege of being able to supervise the construction of a small parsonage, as there was no place for the pastor to live. After that I was changed to Tepatlaxco, Puebla, and then in 1947 was sent to the city of Guanajuato, as pastor.

When I arrived in Guanajuato I found only four families in the church, but we won another later on. Here I worked for three years. Although the fanaticism in all that region is a great obstacle, we were able to carry on. In the Daily Vacation Bible School, during Easter week, and at the Christmas celebrations we were blessed with many visitors, and some very good results were noted.

In 1950 I was appointed as secretary for the Federation of Women's Missionary Societies in the Puebla district. I was able to visit all the different societies of the district at least once, and some of them two or three times. Some places were difficult to reach as I had to go on foot in climbing mountains. Other places could be reached on horseback and some by freight truck. But in spite of all the difficulties and the weariness I could see God's hand leading me.

Finally, I wish to express my gratitude to God for the privilege of serving Him, and I am ready to follow on as long as He may need me.

Reynosa: Miss Reyes and First Group

Since 1922

Gertrudis Reyes

I have been working as a volunteer or as a deaconess since the year 1922 when I was consecrated. My first appointment was in the city of Chihuahua to the social center where I spent three years teaching Spanish and Bible classes. At the same time I worked as visitor for the church and conducted services in a mission church. It was my joy to organize the first Daily Vacation Bible School held in that section, gathering more than 100 children from different parts of the city.

My next work, in Mac Donell Social Center in Durango, was similar to that in Chihuahua, though somewhat more difficult owing to the fanaticism of that region. While there I also regularly visited Guadalupe Victoria, Cuencamé, and Pasaje, founding and supervising women's societies in those places.

On account of a heart condition I was changed from Durango to a lower altitude and was sent to the social center of Monterrey. Here the work had a different aspect. Each Me-

xican worker was sent to some school to tell stories that had an educational and moral value. Besides this we taught illiterates to read and write. In the church I helped in the Women's Missionary Society, in the League of Young People, as a teacher in Sunday School, and also as church visitor. For several years I worked here.

When the financial crisis came and there were not enough preachers to fill the appointments, and foreign ministers could not officiate in a Mexican Church on account of the laws, I was sent to San Juan, Nuevo Leon, to serve as pastor. Here I had to work in opposition to two "prophets", as they styled themselves, "Paul and Silas", who tried to take possession of our church. I had to defend the property and bolster up the faith of the members. Finally I gained the aid of the judge of the place and from then on things went well. I stayed there four years, but a flood caused part of the church to cave in; so the district superintendent named me as pastor in Montemorelos. Here nothing special took place, and my next appointment was to Nuevo Laredo.

Later I was asked to return to the Social Center in Chihuahua where I helped in the commercial department, taught Spanish, arithmetic, and other subjects, at the same time working in the church.

Having now worked fourteen consecutive years, I was given permission to have time off for study; so went to Mexico City and entered the National University, taking a course in Children's Court work. After finishing this course of two years, I was appointed to Roberts Social Center in Saltillo and later to social work in Ramos Arizpe. After three years there I was appointed to Reynosa, an entirely new field.

There was no church in Reynosa, and the people knew nothing about social work. The only person I knew was Brother Ponciano, father of our Bishop Guerra. As there was no house available I had to find a large room to rent. After studying the situation I began working with the little children,

having a kindergarten, and providing games for any who cared to come. There was no electric light nor good water, but with the help of God the work prospered and money was given to erect a house in which I now live. There was great need here for English classes and that opened the way for work among all classes.

Three years ago I was sent to Scarritt College to better prepare myself for the work in Reynosa. Now I have groups studying English, games for all ages, and other activities, besides giving advice and helping to solve the personal problems of people who come to me for help. I also help in the church work.

Experiences as a Deaconess

Victoria Reyes

After graduating from the Bible School I was appointed as deaconess in the church in the city of Puebla, under the supervision of the never-to-be-forgotten pastor, Epigmenio Velasco, with whom I worked for a year and three months.

My next assignment was as assistant to the Secretary of Religious Education of our church and after three years I was put in charge of the Beginners Department. During the six years that I held this post I visited all the charges in Central Conference and various in the Frontier Conference.

After this I was appointed as general secretary of the Federation of Women's Missionary Societies in the Central Conference, a position I held for eight years.

From this work I was transferred to the pastorate of the small congregation in the town of Ozumba. Although I had some experience in the work of the church in general, this was a new departure for me. In my trips during the period I worked in the Department of Religious Education and also the time spent in the work of the Federation, I had seen the growth of our church in general, but the work of a pastor is different.

School in Rincon Victoria

At first I was timid, but I began to notice that the church previously cared for by ministers, still had needs. Its religious activities were organized but there was a great lack of social and recreational opportunities.

I began to organize literary and social affairs. We made excursions to other places on the circuit for evangelistic work. In time we made trips to other points not only for spiritual broadening but for physical development and social expansion as well, having organized games with other groups. However, the spiritual was never lost sight of on these occasions. One memorable day, when we made an excursion to Popocatepetl with the young folks from other churches, reminded us of the Psalmist's declaration:

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,
From whence cometh my strength."

For years I was the little minister in this place and came to realize that the religious life includes every phase of life and can be carried on triumphantly if we put our confidence in God.

After this, I was again made general secretary of the Federation, and then, three years ago, was appointed to the newly re-opened church in Toluca which has been under my care ever since..

Conquering the Darkness

Herminia Gómez

When my mind goes back over the past, I realize that the happiest days of my life have been those spent in the work as a deaconess.

My first appointment was in a small place called Rincon Victoria (Victory Corner). As there was no other means of transportation, it was necessary to travel by horseback, taking eight hours to go from the nearest town, over mountains and through deep and dangerous ravines. As neither children nor adults could read, the first step was to open a school. The first month the attendance reached 40. The children were anxious to learn, but we lacked a place for classes and also a place in which to live. Beginning classes under the trees, we finally obtained an old room that had been used to store grain. The first year ended with 80 children and 50 adults in attendance. The adults came at night bringing their note books pencil, and candles. Such was their hunger to learn that neither distance nor other obstacles kept them away.

The second year all the pupils, both young and old, helped in the construction of a classroom, bringing wood from the mountains and gathering other necessary materials. Soon a nice little schoolhouse materialized, with land around it for gardening. We taught small industries such as how to make chalk and how to form brushes out of grass roots with which to scrub the floors. The girls and even the boys learned to make sweaters and other articles from yarn. Our little school became famous in that region, and our village was the happiest one of all.

But that was not all. We looked after the work of the church. On Saturdays we visited the neighboring places to hold services in homes where a group of families gath-

ered. On Sundays we had Sunday school in the little church in Rincon Victoria, and at night a regular service, when the people came from different places, lighting their way with torches of pine. This was an interesting and inspiring sight, for they were conquering the darkness in order to receive the light of the Gospel. After five years children went on to the city to pursue their studies. From this group of boys and girls have come teachers, business men and women, and others who, living comfortably, have raised the standard of living.

At another time I was appointed as deaconess to work in the environs of Cuautla, later being put in charge of the church in that place. It was then in a state of decadence, but God helped us to win souls for Him, and the work began to prosper.

After that, the Federation of Women's Missionary Societies of our Methodist Church of Mexico named me as missionary to the ranch called La Luz in the State of Guanajuato. A difficult task faced me, for the place was far from civilization and subject to Roman Catholic fanaticism. But the work was facilitated by the services of the nurse deaconess who accompanied me. She cured the sick, taught the women how to prepare food and how to care for their homes. Through this social work the way was opened to give them the Gospel. We taught them to read, to sew, to cook, in fact, whatever they needed to learn.

At length a numerous congregation was raised up in La Luz in which many young men and women worked with great enthusiasm. Accompanied by the young people, we visited other ranches in an evangelistic tour, carrying tracts, and giving the Gospel message by means of a magic lantern and through songs. A little house was built for us that served as a model from which many families constructed similar homes, thus bettering their mode of living. The ranch was transformed. From a place full of misery and sadness it became a prosperous ranch, both materially and spiritually.

My experiences have been many, and I could never finish relating them, for they are the fruit of 26 years of active service. I have lived and served in places where the climate was very hot, in others where it was cold; in some places where the fanaticism was extreme, and in others where there was hunger and thirst for the Gospel. There have been happy days, and days of persecution, days when God has been the witness of tears and pain. But through it all, the powerful hand of my Savior has sustained me and, with Caleb, I can say, "As my strength was then, even so is my strength now" to continue in the conquest of souls.

Field Notes

OFFICIAL VISIT

In January Miss Elizabeth M. Lee and Dr. James E. Ellis, Executive Secretaries for Latin America of the Board of Missions, visited the major Methodist fields in Mexico, making the trip by automobile from the city of Chihuahua to Mexico City and Puebla in order not to miss anything of importance to the work. Mrs. Ellis accompanied her husband, and Mr. Manuel Flores, Secretary of Religious Education, was the congenial guide and safe driver for the long journey.

On previous trips to Mexico Miss Lee had already endeared herself to our people by her gracious spirit and her demonstrated ability to cope with her exacting task. Dr. and Mrs. Ellis, coming to us for the first time, made themselves at home with us, their years of experience as missionaries giving them insight into our plans and problems, and skill in handling them.

Our distinguished visitors saw both the Border and Central Conferences in action, attended the Council of Cooperation, made stimulating addresses, interviewed all who wished to consult them personally, and left us wishing their month's stay had been twice as long.

Mexico, D. F.

In December Miss E. Mac Young of the Department of Missionary Education, Nashville, made a brief visit to Methodist centers here in the interests of her work.

Miss Ramona Redman and Miss Gertrude Baumbach of Puebla spent December in Cortazar, helping Miss Mamie Baird with the Christmas activities. We suspect they nearly lost their hearts to that challenging rural project.

Miss Ethel Householder visited briefly in the city, in December, on her way to the States. A former W. F. M. S. missionary in China, she had spent last year as mathematics teacher in our Methodist school in San Jose, Costa Rica.

On January 19 Miss Ethel Thomas left Mexico City to begin her last furlough before retirement. We still can't believe it, for, to all appearances, she hasn't had a birthday for many years. For our next number we hope to have those reminiscences she promised us. Her address, for the present, is 1872 Elysian Park Ave., Los Angeles, California.

The National Unión of Women's Missionary Societies observed the World Day of Prayer with a service of prayer in the afternoon of February 9 in Gante St. Church, and a concert there in the evening. The concert, announced as a "Night of Melodius Praise", was given by sixteen choirs, or representatives of choirs. Some of the numbers presented were significant for their musical excellence and all of them together constituted a demonstration of the strength and increasing unity of the Evangelical forces in the capital. Most of the choirs were robed or uniformed, making an impressive spectacle. The program was broadcasted over the station sustained by the Maranatha Club, an interdenominational group of active Christians. The choirs participating represented five Methodist churches, two Baptist, one Presbyterian,, one Nazarene, two Interdenominational, one Pentecostal, the Salvation Army, two English language churches — Union and Christ Episcopal,

and one independent choir made up of members from various churches.

Miss Ruth E. Byerley, who spent part of her furlough in South America, wrote from Buenos Aires last fall about the Montevideo Congress of Latin American Methodist Women: "For six days women from nine countries (Brazil and Mexico fraternal delegates) worked and prayed together, with a bit of 'play' at tea time, using the general theme, 'Climbing the Heights with Christ'. Most of the delegates were entertained at wonderful Crandon School, with glorious history and fair future ahead. The last day was given to visiting public buildings, beaches, and our Friendship House and Good Will Industries, a marvelous labor of love.

"Days of far vision and high endeavor, undergirded with prayer, brought us to important aims. To mention a few: observation of the angelus hour for intercession; interfaith action of women against illiteracy and social diseases; renewal of Methodist women's abstinence pledge, liquor and gambling; doubling of regular budget; greatly increased support for the two missionary projects. These are nurses in clinics among the Indians in Bolivia and Chile. The latter, Francisca Carriqueo, working among her own tribe, the Mapuches, was present dressed in full regalia, to make come alive our information and deepen our personal interest. Bishop Barbieri's message based on Philippians 4:6-13, and the call of Latin America, two concerts, and addresses on social questions by outstanding women were high lights. It was a great privilege to be a part of such a body, and participate as fully as possible".

Chihuahua, Chih.

Miss Emma Eldridge is convalescing at Centro Cristiano, after her recent operation in Sanatorio Palmore, where she received the best of care.

Miss Irene Nixon suffered a painful injury to the little finger of her left hand while she was making toys for Christ-

mas. An operation in Sanatorio Palmore repaired the damage as well as possible.

Miss Mary Fitzpatrick from Monterrey visited friends at Centro Cristiano recently.

Miss Lillian Maxfield came down from Springfield, Missouri, to spend Christmas at Centro Cristiano.

Miss Hazel McAllister and Miss Jean Hoffman have been spending a few days in Chihuahua.

James Anderson Byrne made his appearance in this world at Sanatorio Palmore on December 1. Congratulations to the parents, Mr., and Mrs. Robert Byrne.

Dr. Ray D. Kellog and wife of Sioux City, Iowa, were visitors with Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Newberry during December. Also Mrs. L. H. Tucker and Mrs. Martha C. Campbell of El Paso, Texas. These visitors were very favorably impressed with the work being done by the Methodist Church in Chihuahua.

We were glad to welcome Miss E. Mae Young of Nashville for a short visit in Chihuahua. We hope that her pictures all turned out well!

Miss Ruth Kern, R. N., of Newark Hospital, El Paso, spent a few days with Miss Pearl Hall.

How the Gospel Came to Yodoyuxi

"I rejoice to report a truce in Yodoyuxi, for the fanatical element has ceased to combat us," wrote Rev. Zorobabel Montiel. Methodist pastor who had been trying for years to evangelize that remote village.

"We suffered violence, persecution, and bruises, but at the same time had the joyous presentiment that all this would be the beginning of a vigorous and triumphant evangelization," stated this worker with regard to his first visit to the village.

As a first step he and three other fellow ministers went to San Pedro Yodoyuxi to hold a service with the few believers who lived there. The villagers, at the instigation of their

priest and the Catholic Action group, persuaded the municipal officer to expel the Protestant visitors while the mob, with threats, stones and blows, obliged them to seek refuge in impassible mountains.

A year later Brother Montiel returned and spent a week in Yodoyuxi holding services, teaching hymns, explaining doctrine, and discussing Holy Writ with men whom the local priest had primed. "But, thank God, He always makes us triumph through the knowledge, power, and love of our Lord Jesus Christ. This time three of us almost lost our lives, but God delivered us."

After ten months he made a third visit. "No one, absolutely no one of those redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, had deserted from the ranks," reported this shepherd of the flock, and that in spite of the fact that these new brethren had not been allowed to receive their mail which would have kept them in touch with Brother Montiel. At this time the municipal officer who had expelled the ministers on the first visit received Christ as his Savior, as did six other men, seven women, and eight children.

After the last sunrise service on this third trip the pastor had the fifty or sixty people who were present file out of the little room which served as sanctuary and stand where they had a good view of the village.

At the pastor's right stood the converted officer, at his left the president of Catholic Action, now a sympathizer. About them, with the brethren who had survived the persecution, were grouped the new converts who had just entered the fellowship. Prayerfully they all sang this chorus which Brother Montiel had tanght them:

Yodoyuxi Yodoyuxi, thou shalt be saved;
If thou wilt accept Christ today,
He will forgive thy sins.

Yodoyuxi, Yodoyuxi, thou shalt be saved;
If thou wilt accept Christ today,
Thou shalt have a crown of life.

SONETO AL CRUCIFICADO

No me mueve, mi Dios, para quererte
el cielo que me tienes prometido,
ni me mueve el infierno tan temido
para dejar por eso de ofenderte.

Tú me mueves, Señor, muéveme el verte
clavado en una cruz y escarnecido,
muéveme ver tu cuerpo tan herido;
muévenme tus afrentas y tu muerte.

Muéveme, al fin, tu amor, y en tal manera,
que, aunque no hubiera cielo yo te amara,
y aunque no hubiera infierno te temiera.

No me tienes que dar porque te quiera;
pues aunque lo que espero no esperara,
lo mismo que te quiero te quisiera.

México, D. F.:

Dr. and Mrs. M. C. Davis, Apto. 117 Bis
Mr. and Mrs. John L. Groves, Apto. 117 Bis
Mr. and Mrs. Claude R. Kellogg, Apto. 117 Bis
Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Matzigkeit, Apto. 117 Bis
Miss Gertrude Arbogast, Humboldt 39 – 22, Zona 1
Miss Dora L. Ingrum, Apto. 117 Bis
Miss Orlene McKimmey, Mariano Escobedo 291, Col. Anáhuac, Zona 5, D. F.
Miss Mary N. Pearson, Sadi Carnot 73, Zona 4
Miss Elsie Shepherd, Alamo 68, Col. Sta. Ma. de la Ribera, Zona 4
Miss Ruth V. Warner, Humboldt 39 – 22, Zona 1

Monterrey, N. L.:

Miss Ruth Byerley, (on furlough)
Miss Anabelle Dyck, Apto. 446
Miss Helen M. Hodgson, Apto. 446
Miss Dora Schmidt, Washington 208 Oriente
Miss Pauline Willingham, Apto. 446

Puebla, Pue.:

Miss Bertha Baker, Apto. 157
Miss Ola Eugene Callahan, Apto. 157
Miss Clara A. Gibson, Apto. 157

Students,
Methodist Deaconess School